

~~D<sub>1</sub> CONT~~  
areas of reduced rigidity in a peripheral wall of the housing, each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprising either a notch or a slot extending substantially perpendicular to a surface of the housing, and located at positions generally furthest from a neutral point of the connector and extending through a distal end of the peripheral wall of the housing from an inner face to an outer face of the peripheral wall.

~~D<sub>2</sub>~~  
8. (As Amended) A housing for an electrical connector, comprising:

a frame; and  
areas of reduced rigidity in the frame extending substantially perpendicular to a surface of the housing located only at positions generally furthest from a neutral point of the connector.

~~D<sub>3</sub>~~  
12. (As Amended) A method of reducing rigidity in a housing of an electrical connector, comprising:

determining a location on said housing which may build up stress; and  
removing a portion of the housing extending substantially perpendicular to a surface of the housing at said location.

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-16, and 19-21 were rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 16, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Fishley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,631). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 16, and 19-21 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 is directed to an electrical connector housing that has areas of reduced rigidity, each area of reduced rigidity comprising a notch or a slot that extends substantially perpendicular to a surface of the housing.